Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1711 - May 28 2010

Please note that due to the amount of news covered that this is an extended newscast running 34 minutes and 19 seconds and contains 3 breaks at 9:55; 18:12 and 24:25.

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1711 with a release date of Friday, May 28, 2010 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. Ham radio heads to the planet Venus aboard UNITEC One but for the moment the signal has faded away. Also, the first ever U.S. license tests are held in India, the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators withdraws several questions and lots more on Hamvention 2010. Enjoy being there with us on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1711 comes your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: PROBE CARRYING HAM TRANSPONDER ON ITS WAY TO VENUS

The UNITEC - 1 space probe is on its way to Venus and ham radio is along for the ride. But the ham radio transponder on board the spacecraft has not been heard from in several days. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, is in the newsroom with more:

--

UNITEC-1 is a one of a kind experimental satellite that was developed by twenty educational institutions that are a part of Japan's University Space Engineering Consortium. This is the cooperative working on the development of so called nano-satellites for Japan.

What makes this mission is of particular interest to ham radio is that UNITEC-1 carries a 5 Gigahertz amateur radio beacon that signs the call JQ1ZUN and it has already been heard from space. On May 21st Japanese ground stations reported receiving both the CW and FSK beacons telemetry from the spacecraft when it was about 320,000 km from Earth. They report a measured beacon frequency of 5.839.91 Gigahertz which is very close to the previously published 5.840 Gigahertz planned frequency.

Then on Friday, May 21st at 1900 UTC, spacecraft controllers lost the signal from UNITEC-1. They could still hear the Planet-C and Ikaros telemetry transponders on 8.4 GHz but not the 5.84 GHz signal from UNITEC-1. Further attempts to re-acquire UNITEC-1 on subsequent days have so far been unsuccessful.

UNITEC-1 controllers are encouraging hams world-wide to attempt to receive the spacecraft's amateur radio beacons and report back their observations. More information on this deep space project is available at the University Space Engineering Consortium website. Its in cyberspace at www.unisec.jp/unitec-1.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, in the newsroom in the City of Angels.

--

The launch of UNITEC One took place on Thursday, May 20th from the Tanegashima Space Center in Japan. We will have more ham radio space related news later on in this weeks Amateur Radio Newsline report. (UNITEC-1 Working Group)

**

HAM EXAMS: FIRST ARRL-VEC US LICENSE TESTS ADMINISTERED IN INDIA

The first-ever US amateur radio exams session in India were scheduled to be held May 24th in the city of Hyderabad under the auspices of an ARRL VEC team. The Technician, General and Amateur Extra were to have been administered during this session.

With growing interest by hams living outside the United States in holding a U-S license, the report from the Southgate news indicates that ARRL V-E-C test sessions are being conducted in Canada, Brazil, Germany, Japan, Mexico, Panama, Philippines, Italy, Trinidad and Tobago and other locations around the globe.

More information concerning US ham radio exams in India is on line at tinyurl.com/2g9njpa. (Southgate)

**

RADIO TESTING: NCVEC WITHDRAWS FOUR QUESTIONS FROM HAM TESTS

The Question Pool Committee of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators or NCVEC has announced the withdrawal of four questions. Two from the Technician class pool and two from the Extra class pool. Amateur Radio Newsline's Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, has the details on this action:

--

According to a May 25th bulletin released by the American Radio Relay League, the two Technician questions dealt with emergency communications and Section 97.113 of the FCC's rules governing amateur radio participation in emergency training drills. As most listeners already know, back in March the FCC released a Notice of Proposed Rule Making in W P Docket No 10-72, that proposes to amend Section 97.113 to provide that, under certain limited conditions, Amateur Radio operators may transmit messages during emergency and disaster preparedness practice sessions. This, regardless of whether the operators are employees of entities participating in the drill.

The bulletin notes that the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators believes that adoption of the NPRM appears more likely than not. This the NCVEC says will make the two questions dealing with the subject invalid. Therefore group feels it is best to withdraw the questions now to avoid the possible inclusion of invalid information in training material now being prepared

As to the two deleted Extra class exam questions. They dealt with third party restrictions as defined in 97.109(e) of the rules. The FCC has since deleted this rule, so the information is no longer applicable to the Amateur Service.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles.

--

The four questions not to be used after June 30th are T2C02 and T2C03 from the July 2010 Technician Pool and questions E1C04 and E1C05 from the July 2008 Extra Pool. The ARRL Bulletin notes that Volunteer Examiner Coordinators and Volunteer Examiners must take action to remove these questions from use in exams given after July 1st. (ARRL, NCVEC)

**

RADIO RULES: FCC DENIES PETITION FOR RECONSIDERATION ON CALLSIGN ID TIMES

The FCC has denied a Petition for Reconsideration filed by Glen Zook, K9STH, that asked for changes in Part 97. This in regard to how often United States hams must identify themselves on the air.

The May 18th action follows the Commission's denial of Zook's April 2009 Petition for Rulemaking. At that time K9STH asked the Commission amend Section 97.119(a) to change how often amateur stations must identify themselves. Zook specifically asked that the FCC require that an amateur station transmit its call sign during the first transmission of any communication or series of transmissions, and to allow an amateur station to not transmit its call sign at the end of a communication when the communication or series of transmissions lasts less than three minutes.

In denying his reconsideration request the FCC stated that Zook's petition did not demonstrate that the current station identification rule is inadequate. Nor did he prove that revising the station identification requirement as requested would address the concern that many amateur radio operators do not identify their station in a timely manner or at all.

The FCC also noted that in response to Zook's 2006 petition, that many who commented believed that the current station identification rule properly balances the burden of requiring the station to transmit its call sign with the convenience of those receiving the transmissions to determine the identity of the station making the transmission. (FCC)

**

RADIO LAW: TWO LEGISLATORS TO LEAD REVIEW OF COMMUNICATIONS ACT

Two legislators have said that they would begin a process to modernize telecommunications laws that were last overhauled in 1996 with more of an emphasis on the Internet. In a joint statement on Monday, May 24th, Senator John D. Rockefeller of West Virginia and Representative Henry A. Waxman of California said that they will hold meetings in June to examine how the Communications Act meets the current needs of consumers, the telecommunications industry and the Federal Communications Commission.

The issue came into focus in April after a federal appeals court ruled that the FCC. had overstepped its authority in applying a portion of the Communications Act to an Internet service provider in a case dealing with so called Net Neutrality. Net Neutrality is the concept that Internet Service Providers must afford consumers with equal access to all types of content and applications.

In response, the FCC announced a plan to reclassify broadband Internet service, which is now lightly regulated as an information service. Under the change, it would become a telecommunications service and would come under tighter scrutiny by the agency. This reclassification would give the FCC the authority to implement portions of its recently released National Broadband Plan, as well as to enforce Net Neutrality,

No matter what the outcome of the Rockefeller and Waxman hearings, do not look for any changes to the Communications Act to happen ant time soon. It took more than five years to produce the 1996 rewrite. Thin in itself was the first major change of overall United States telecommunications law since the Communications Act became law way back in 1934.

For those not aware, Senator John D. Rockefeller IV is the Chairman of the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee. Representative Henry A. Waxman is the Chairman of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.   (Published News Reports)

**

BREAK 1

 From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the KM6DF repeater serving Santa Maria California.

(5 sec pause here)

**

ENFORCEMENT: FCC DENIES REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF LICENSE REVOCATION

The FCC has denied a request from Lonnie Keeney, the ex- KB9RFO in which he asked the regulatory agency for reconsideration of the Order of Revocation issued to him on February 25, 2009. The FCC says that Revocation Order was based on a determination by the FCC that Keeney lacks the requisite character qualifications to be and remain a Commission licensee based on a prior felony conviction for child molestation.

In his Reconsideration Request Keeney asked that he be permitted to keep his amateur radio license. In support of his position he stated that he has no money to defend himself at a hearing, that his license is important to him and that he previously used his amateur station to provide services to his community. He also stated that he participates as a volunteer in a jail ministry and that he is trying to rebuild his reputation in the face of a lifelong requirement to register as a sex offender.

But in its denial, the FCC says that Keeney has provided no newly discovered facts or information that would, in the public interest, warrant reconsideration of the Order of Revocation. It says that the information Keeney presents in his Petition for Reconsideration is of the kind that was already presented to the Administrative Law Judge and described in the Revocation Order. The FCC also notes that even assuming, that Keeney did present a basis for reversing the Order of Revocation, that the relief to which he would be entitled would be a new hearing proceeding on his qualifications, not, as he seeks, authority to keep his amateur radio license.

Finally, the FCC concludes that based on the information before it that Keeney has failed to establish a basis for reconsideration of the Order of Revocation. Furthermore, the relief he seeks under the circumstances presented is inconsistent with the Commission's procedural rules. As such the FCC says that the Petition for Reconsideration filed by Lonnie Keeney on March 17, 2009, is denied.

You can read the entire decision in this matter on line at http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-10-916A1.doc or http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-10-916A1.pdf (FCC)

**

RESCUE RADIO: NZ ARES ASSISTS IN SEARCH FOR MISSING HUNTERS

Members of the New Zealand Amateur Radio Emergency Corps provided communications during a search for two hunters lost in the bush. The New Zealand Stuff website reports that the two hunters went missing in a rugged mountain range, triggering an all out search to find them.

Involved in the hunt were local police along with search and rescue volunteers from area hiking and hunting clubs. Members of the New Zealand Amateur Radio Emergency Corps provided communications.

Senior Sergeant Luke Shadbolt, of Hastings, said the men were found on a near-by road after what the hunters suffered an uncomfortable night in the bush. The full story is on-line at tinyurl.com/25exrz6.

**

D-STAR NEWS: D-STAR AUDIO STREAM NOW ON THE WWW

KF4ZW says that anyone can now listen to D-Star ham radio contacts without purchasing any equipment for the mode. This, as a D-Star audio feed is now available via the radioreference.com website. Here's a sample of just how good it sounds:

--

D-Star Audio: Hear it in the MP3 version of this weeks newscast downloadable at www.arnewslineorg.

--

The audio usually originates from Reflector 1c which is generally the

busiest feed. A direct link is in this weeks printed Newsline report. After you find the correct radioreference page just scroll to the bottom, look for the D-Star link and click on the "speaker" icon to start listening.

KF4ZW adds that you can also listen to any of these feeds via your iphone or blackberry as long as you have the unlimited data plan. The direct link is: www.radioreference.com/apps/audio/?ctid21 (KF4ZW, D-Star Reflector)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: G6UIM JOINS PARIS NEAR SPACE PROJECT

Some names in the news. From the U-K comes word that Steve Daniels, G6UIM, has joined the Paper Aircraft Released Into Space or PARIS project. The PARIS Project plan is for a paper aircraft named Vulture 1 to be released this summer from a weather balloon that will carry it to over 30 km in altitude.

G6UIM, who built his first computer in 1979, has been working on the main payload radio beacon as well as the Vulture 1 GPS board. Plans call for Yaesu FT-817 to be used to receive the signal. (Southgate)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: SWODXA NAMES DXPEDITION HONOREES

The Southwest Ohio DX Association has announced this years "DXpedition of the Year" and a "Special or DXpeditioner of the Year" awards. The 2010 DXpedition of the Year award went to the K4M Midway Atoll operation while this years Special Award was presented to the TX3A Chesterfield Island team. The presentations were made at the recent 2010 DX Banquet held in conjunction with the Hamvention in Dayton, Ohio. (SWODXA)

**

HAMVENTION 2010: THE FUTURE OF DIGITAL RADIO

Software Defined Radio was one of the big highlights at the recently concluded Dayton Hamvention, and we are not just talking about gear on the exhibit floor. The fact is that SDR as it has come to be called was a high priority with a good number of those attending the technical sessions as we hear from Amateur Radio Newsline's Mark Abramowicz, NT3V:

--

When it comes to being on the ground floor of digital communications, few do it better than the Tuscon Amateur Packet Radio group.

Scotty Cowling ,WA2DFI, is TAPR's vice president, and working to promote the next best thing in amateur radio high performance software defined radio.

Cowling says while many people still think of TAPR as a packet organization because of the name, it has come a long way from where it once stood in the 1980s. Now, Cowling says, the group's aim is to promote research and

development to advance the state of the art of digital communications.

"Packet, I mean, it's still there obviously but I've seen it evolve from a novelty like keyboard clicking back and forth to backbones across the country, to it basically as a foundation for APRS, which is another thing that I really got into," explains Cowling.

"It's useful for that. But I see the future of digital radio as moving on."

"I mean digital radio is the future rather than packet radio. And, not to belittle packet radio but I mean we're for advancing the state of the art and software defined radio is a big part of that."

What is software defined radio? Cowling says it's where the actual mode selection-demodulation is done in software, not in hardware. He points out that it's different from a software controlled radio which is a conventional radio that might have some digital signal processing in it but is sent commands to do various operations switch bands switch modes, and switch filters. Essentially, Cowling says, the operation of the radio and capability of adapting to new modes is tremendous because the new modes are defined in software.

"So you can take the same old hardware you paid your good money five years ago and now, when they come out with PSK-32 it's just a software update," says Cowling. And then you don't have to worry about, well, where am I going to get the next $2,000 to buy a new radio."

And, Cowling acknowledges, the next generation of HPSDR may not be for everyone.

"Some people just can't deal with no knobs," says Cowlings. "But I think if you use it you will find that it will grow on you and it will grow on you and you will adapt to it just like you adapted to using your FT1000 over your, you know, 940."

But, he says, a lot of people are out there playing around with Software-Defined Radios and they're excited about the future.

"Some of the people are contesters who want absolute high performance," Cowling says.

"Most of the people that TAPR deals with are experimenter-types. Software guys, hardware guys, guys that are excited about something new in ham radio that maybe they haven't seen anything new for years."

"Its kind of where I'm coming from, it's something that's exciting now where there hasn't been a lot other than the same old, same old for a long time."

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, reporting from the Dayton Hamvention.

--

Mark will be back next week with another look at a specialty interest that was big at Hamvention 2010. A facet of the hobby that uses small radios

and low power to communicate world wide. (ARNewsline(tm), NT3V)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

HAMVENTION 2010: THE HAM RADIO TOWN MEETING

Still with Hamvention 2010, this year Amateur Radio Newsline devoted its two hour Ham Radio Town Meeting to something that might best be described as only peripheral to the hobby but important to everyone's day to day existence. With the economy only barely showing any signs of recovery and unemployment at near record levels, we thought it might be a good idea to try to help those hams in need of employment to do so by using their experience as licensed radio amateurs. The session title was " Amateur Radio As A Way To Find Or Keep A Job In Todays Shrinking Job Market" and while our speakers could not provide all the answers, but some like Bob Sherman, K2SJP, were able to share stories of the way in which being a ham as a teen did lead to a lifelong career:

--

K2SJP: "It helped me to pick up my trade in aircraft electronics. I went for an interview with Pan American World Airways at Kennedy Airport and I was a graduate of RCA Institute in New York City and had gone to George Westinghouse Radio and Television High School in Brooklyn, but they didn't seem to care about that to much.

"But when I listed my ham radio license, the girl that was interviewing me peaked up and said: '..you're a ham radio operator?'

"I said yes, I've been a ham radio operator for several years now.

"And she says: 'we need you.'

"And I spent 25 years with Pan American World Airways right to the day of its demise. And, I was actually in the top 7% of seniority in Avionics and stayed on with them after their demise for several months where we collected the aircraft from all over the world, brought them back to Miami and JFK (in New York City) and I performed final Avionics service on them before they were put up for sale."

--

After Pan Am folded Bob's ham license got him a position at Tower Air and later at Federal Express from which he recently retired.

Another speaker tackled the emerging interest by teens and early adults in electronic careers. Her name is Diana Eng, her call is KC2UHB, and she has a multi faceted professional life as a Fashion Designer of Electronic Integrated Clothing. In addition, Eng is a former Project Runway contestant. She also produces and hosts on-line videos explaining the various aspects of electronics and communications and is a writer for Make Magazine. Diana talked about the emerging interest in ham radio and how it might lead to niche careers:

--

KC2UHB: "The way that I got into all of this was because right now there is a huge revival in hobbyist electronics. A lot of young people are really getting into this as well as people in their teens, 20's and 30's and they are forming things called Hacker Groups. These are not evil hackers who do mean things to your computer. This is a different type of hacker. These are people who like to play with electronics and try to see if they can do something new with it.

"So this is my hacker group over here (pointing to photo on screen). Its called NYC Resistor and I am one of the co-founders of it. Right now we have about 30 members and are based in Brooklyn (New York).

--

Other speakers included Steve Mendelsohn, W2ML, of the ABC Television Network, Rich Moseson, W2VU who is the editor of CQ Magazine, Martin Jue, K5FLU the founder of MFJ Enterprizes, Allen Pitts, W1AGP who is Public Relations Director for the ARRL and ham radio's own "Mr. Audio" Bob Heil, K9EID, of Heil Sound Limited. Each had his or her own ham radio business success story to tell and you can hear the entire session by downloading the MP3 file at our website at www.arnewsline.org. Just scroll down until you see the words "Click here to download the entire 120 Minute 2010 Hamvention Town Meeting," settle back and we hope that what you hear is of some help to those who are seeking a job or trying to keep the one that they now have.

And less we forget, our thanks to Hap Holly, KC9RP, and the Radio Amateur Information Network for recording this years Town Meeting, to our on-site Producer Don Wilbanks, AE5DW, and our Prize Coordinator Cathy Anno, KB0FDU. And a special thank you to Heil Sound and CQ Magazine who generously provided this years major door prizes. (ARNewsline(tm))

**

WITH NEWSLINE: PROBLEMS ON THE 296-2407 DIAL UP LINE

If you tried to access Newsline by telephone last week you likely found that the machine supplying the audio dropped out after only a few minutes. This made it impossible to get the entire newscast by telephone until late Tuesday the 25th. That's when we were finally able to get the unit feeding the phone line back up to speed. At least for the time being.

Well what happened is that the machine used to feed the telephone line is more than 20 years old and is frankly on its last legs. A quick call to Panasonic has confirmed that there are no longer any parts available.

Luckily we had one that we have been cannibalizing for parts. That said, once the unit now on line finally fails for good, there will be nothing that we can afford to buy to replace it.

Therefore we urge anyone who still uses the 661-296-2407 dial in line to begin thinking about switching to downloading the MP3 audio file from our website at www.arnewsline.org. Once the Panasonic machine goes to the electronic dumping ground, the 2407 line will be disconnected and all telephone feed service will end. We cannot tell you when that will be, but from the looks of the machine it could happen at anytime in the not to distant future. (ARNewsline(tm))

**

BREAK 3

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

RADIO HONORS: WIRELESS INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA TURNS 100 IN YEAR LONG CELEBRATION

The Worlds oldest national ham radio society has turned 100 and there is a big celebration going on down-under. Of coarse we are talking about the Wireless Institute of Australia. Graham Kemp, VK4BB, is the voice of the WIA News and is here to tell us about the year long festivities that are taking place:

--

For the full year being January through December 2010 and with the help of it's members, the WIA is celebrating the Centenary of organized Amateur Radio in Australia. The year long celebration, with the center point this weekends 100th WIA Annual General Meeting in the nations capital is in recognition of the foundation of the WIA and the very start of organized amateur radio in Australia during 1910.

11 March, 1910 a meeting of like-minded people in the Hotel Australia, Martin Place, Sydney, formed the Institute of Wireless Telegraphy of Australia, and soon after dropped the word 'telegraphy' from its name. Chairman of the founding meeting, George Taylor, proposed "the formation of an institution amongst experimenters and enthusiasts in wireless for their mutual benefit."

A range of initiatives and activities happening in 2010 provide an opportunity for every VK/AX radio amateur to be involved in what is already a memorable celebration.

Special event callsign VK100WIA is very popular.

The WIA annual general meeting and activities program in Canberra this weekend is in full swing!

Astronaut Tracy Caldwell-Dyson, KF5DBF, will be talking from space to this WIA Centenary Dinner in Canberra. As the ISS Expedition 23 Flight Engineer, Tracy is set to give a brief speech to the WIA Centenary Dinner on Saturday May the 29th before answering questions from up to ten students from Canberra's Trinity Christian School.

The weekly Sunday morning VK1WIA broadcast hosted by yours truly Graham, VK4BB, will be transmitted live from an outside broadcast studio set up in a Canberra park. The broadcast will be aired live at 8:00am and simultaneously recorded, with the mp3 recording uploaded to the WIA website at the conclusion of the broadcast for re-broadcasters around the world to download.

Public displays of amateur radio are being mounted in local Canberra venues with the assistance of the Canberra Region Amateur Radio Club. A chance to demonstrate the hobby of amateur radio to the people of Canberra, show how the skills learnt can be valuable for education, public service and communication
  in times of emergency. An exercise in amateur radio public relations where the community can see and experience the fun and public service capability that their "radio amateur" neighbors bring to the community.

All in all a great weekend, a great year, 2010 the year the Wireless Institute of Australia turns 100.

I'm Graham Kemp, VK4BB, and you are listening to the Amateur Radio Newsline.

--

You can learn more about the 100th anniversary celebration of the Wireless Institute of Australia on line at www.wia.org.au. (WIA News, VK4BB)

**

RADIO HONORS: SARL CELEBRATES 85th YEAR AS SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL SOCIETY

The South African Radio League has celebrated its 85th anniversary. The society was founded on Wednesday 20 May 1925, a group of radio amateurs got together in the city of Cape Town to form a national organization .

Dennis Green, ZS4BS, is the current President of the South African Radio League. In his celebratory message, Green said -- and we quote -- "As we look to the future, we are faced with some challenges to the organization and to the hobby. I think the recruitment of members is important, not only the young people, but also those more settled." -- end quote.

Green went on to say that even though technologies change very rapidly and we as radio amateurs must stay abreast of development, we must be part of that development, we must take the lead. Green adds that ham radio has so many facets and that there are some many things radio amateurs can get involved in, that only the sky is the limit. (SARL)

**

RADIO FROM SPACE: COMET CRASH INTO SUN OBSERVED BY STEREO

Solar physicists at the University of California at Berkeley have captured for the first time the collision of a comet with the sun.

Using data radioed back to Earth from instruments aboard NASA's twin STEREO spacecraft, the four researchers at UC Berkeley's Space Sciences Laboratory were able to track the comet as it approached the sun and estimate an approximate time and place of impact. They then looked at data from the terrestrial Mauna Loa Solar Observatory in Hawaii, and found images in the predicted spot of what appears to be a comet approaching the edge of the sun from behind the solar disk. While the comet apparently survived the heat of the corona and disappeared in the chromosphere, evaporating in the 100,000-degree Kelvin heat.

The Solar Terrestrial Relations Observatory or STEREO was launched in 2006 and consists of identical spacecraft orbiting the sun. One is in orbit ahead of Earth and one behind. This provides a human eye-like stereo view of the sun.   You can read more at tinyurl.com/28er687 (Science Daily)

**

THE CONTEST CORNER: CQWW WPX CW CONTESR MAY 29 - 30

In contesting news, a reminder that the CQWW WPX CW Contest takes place between May 29 and 30 between 0000 and 2359UTC. This is an HF contest only that uses the 160 through 10 meter bands and requires an exchange of signal report and serial number. More information on it is on line at www.cq-amateur-radio.com. (CQ)

**

DX

In DX, we start this week on the VHF bands. This with word that on Friday May 14th the 50MHz band was open from Great Britain to Bahrain. This resulted in a 5270 kilometer contact being made between RSGB VHF Manager David Butler, G4ASR and A92IO. But it did not end there. On Monday May 17th G4ASR contacted stations in Greece on the 2 meter band. SSB contacts were made via Sporadic-E propagation to SV2JL at 2300 kilometers and SW6KRV at 2286 kilometers. A few minutes earlier G4ASR had SSB contacts on 4 meter with SV1DH at 2590 kilometers and SV2DCD at 2253 kilometers.

Turning to the High Frequency bands, news that a multi-national team of up to 30 operators from nine countries is in advanced preparation operate from Spratly Island group in the South China Sea. Following 12 months of discussions with military and civilian authorities permission has been received to operate on Thitu Island.   The DXpedition, organized by the South Pacific Contest Club, will run from January 6th to the 24th 2011. More on this operation is on-line at www.dx0dx.net.

ZL4DB is going to Macquarie Island on a 3 month job assignment. He hopes to operate portable VK0 on SSB only when time permits from late May until mid-August. He is not an experienced DXer and, according to his QSL

manager, ham radio activity will be minimal. QSL via ZL4PW, direct or via the bureau.

W6NWS will be in Vietnam until June 9th and expects to be active as XV2W when time permits. QSL via home call, direct or bureau and Logbook of The World.

Members of the Tifariti Gang are heading to the middle-East area of Palestine. Look for E4X to be active through June 6th. At airtime no QSL route is available for this one.

Lastly, the Ukrainian DX'peditioners Team has a new project called Pacific Odyssey 2010. They plan to be active as T31X from Central Kiribati through June 1st and Tokelau as ZK3X from June 2nd to 6th. T31 is ranked most needed number 7 in Europe, number 19 worldwide. Tokelau is number 29 in Europe and number 35 worldwide. QSL as directed on the air.

(Above from various DX news sources)

**

THAT FINAL ITEM: AMATEUR RADIO ASTRONOMERS FIND SUPER SECRET SPACE PLANE

And finally this week, a group of amateur radio-astronomers have accomplished what the military was likely hoping would not happen. They have spotted the super-secret U.S. Air Force X-37B mini space plane on-orbit. Amateur Radio Newsline's Frank Haas, KB4T, has the rest of the story:

--

The un-piloted X-37B Orbital Test Vehicle 1 was lofted on April 22 atop an Atlas launcher. It is being flown under the auspices of the U.S. Air Force Rapid Capabilities Office. From there it entered a proverbial cone of silence regarding its on-orbit duties. But thanks to a worldwide network of amateurs sky watchers, the spacecraft is reportedly in a 39.99 degrees inclination, circling the Earth in an orbit 401 kilometers by 422 kilometers.

Greg Roberts of Cape Town, South Africa, a pioneer in using telescopic video cameras to track spacecraft, chalking up exceptional results over the years. He says that this data may change slightly as the spaceships orbit is better refined. Roberts adds that those sighting the craft have absolute confidence in their observations, claiming no chance of error or of it being any other type of orbital item such as a satellite.

Roberts says that the next phase in the amateur astronomers tracking of the X-37B will be an attempt to see if the space plane is emitting any radio signals on the frequency bands that he is able to monitor. He says that will be an even bigger challenge than that of locating the space plane itself because without any data as to emission type or frequencies on which it may be operating it will be like looking for a proverbial needle in a haystack.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Frank Haas, KB4T, in Holly Hill,

Florida.

--

The Air Force has not said what the robotic ship is for, but analysts say the X-37B is but most guess that it is likely a high altitude spy craft. (Science OnLine, Yahoo News)

**

NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline (at) arnewsline (dot)org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), 28197 Robin Avenue, Santa Clarita
California, 91350

A quick reminder that the nominating period for the 2010 Young Ham of the Year Award closes at midnight on Sunday, May 30th. Any nomination form postmarked after that date or received electronically after the midnight hour on May 30th will not be considered in this years judging. Full instructions and a nominating form are on our website at www.arnewsline.org.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Jim Damron, N8TMW, and I'm Jeff Clark, K8JAC, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) is Copyright 2010. All rights reserved.